(b) what is the time frame for clearing these projects and sending them to Department of Economic Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) No proposal of Government of Gujarat for external assistance was pending in the Ministry of Water Resources as on 31st December, 1999.

(b) Clearance of project and sending it to the Department of Economic Affairs depends upon the State Government complying with the guidelines of the donor agencies and the Government of India.

Creation of Irrigation Potential in Gujarat

3960. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed in respect of creation of irrigation potential in the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan period with hectares and amount allocated for the purpose;

(b) whether the targets were achieved during the plan period;

(c) if not, what is the backlog and how Government propose to achieve that within a time frame ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The targets fixed and achievements made for creation of irrigation potential during Eighth Five Year Plan period through Major and Medium irrigation projects and Minor Irrigation Schemes alongwith the amount allocated for the same to the State of Gujarat are as under :—

	Creation of irrigation potential during VIII Plan (in Thousand hectares)			Approved outlay (Rs. in crore)
	Targets	Achievement	Backlog	
Major & Medium Irrigation	448.00	104.00	344.00	22,319.53
Minor Irrigation	180.00	35.00	145.00	5,684.26
Total	628.00	139.00	489.00	28,003.79

With a view to complete irrigation projects in time bound manner so that benefits from locked up investments can be accrued at the earliest. Government of India is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments for selected ongoing major and medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which was launched in the year 1996-97. Under AIBP, CLA amounting to Rs. 968.193 crore has been released so far to 11 major and medium irrigation projects of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat is required to ensure release of the State's own share immediately after the central fund is received by the State and the effective utilisation of the funds for creation of potential.

Reforms in Water Policy

3961. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Water pricing authority proposed" as published in the Times of India dated 2nd December, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission on Water Resources has recommended reforms and changes in the laws relating to water policy;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Commission; and

(d) to what extent Government have accepted the recommendations and changes in the proposed water pricing authority have been made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has recommended for enactment of a law on Inter-State rivers to be called the Inter-State Rivers and River Valley (Integrated and Participatory Management) Act to *interalia* provide for (i) the constitution of River Basin Organisation and for their powers and functions and (ii) data collection and studies to be made by Union for possible Inter-State inter-basin transfer. It has also recommended to amend the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to ensure that awards of Inter-State water tribunals are given within a resonable period of time as also for the effectiveness of such awards. It has emphasised the need for revising the National Water Policy, 1987.